

Date: 1-26-21

**Senate Transportation, Public Utilities, Energy, and Technology Committee**

**Bill: SB 109 Emergency Services Amendments**

Sponsor: Sen. Harper

Floor Sponsor: Rep. Handy

**UASD Position: Tracking**

This Bill: modifies certification provisions for emergency medical responders.

Discussion: Sen. Harper replaced the bill with the first substitute, changing the word certificate to certification and further clarifying the required background checks. He said this bill came out of an audit of the 911 Advisory Committee. This bill clarifies how emergency medical services officers are certified, background checks, and training. Sen. Millner asked about the difference between licensure and certification. Sen. Harper said certification is done under the authority of the Utah Fire Prevention Board or Department of Health. People taking calls are not licensed medical providers but they do need certification. Ted Black spoke in support of the bill, saying it restores some authority to the Fire Prevention Board.

Yeas: 5

Nays: 0

N/V: 3

**Outcome: Passed unanimously with a favorable recommendation.**

Date: 1-26-21

**Senate Transportation, Public Utilities, Energy, and Technology Committee**

**Bill: HB 24 State Engineer Electronic Communications**

Sponsor: Rep. Ferry

Floor Sponsor: Sen. Hinkins

**UASD Position: Support**

This Bill: addresses actions taken by the state engineer.

Discussion: Rep. Ferry introduced the bill, explaining it addresses the notification period in our water rights system. All water in the state is owned by the state, but people and organizations can file applications to appropriate the water. Part of the process is making sure that the owner/user is notified. That usually goes through the mail, but this bill allows for electronic notification. State engineer Teresa Wilhelmsen said this bill helps increase efficiency and saves money. Sen. Riebe asked if they're moving to electronic notification in the future, or if they'll go back to paper as soon as they can. Ms. Wilhelmsen said they're trying to move to electronic notification. Sen. Riebe asked what the hurdles are toward using this more. Ms. Wilholmsen said the biggest hurdle is the available technology, and they're thinking about it as an opt-in because there are serious consequences if notice deadlines are missed. They hope to do a pilot project once the bill passes and then roll it out further. Sen. Riebe asked if there are any places where they don't have internet access. Ms. Wilholmsen said their office goes back a while, so there are a lot of places they only have addresses for. Rep. Ferry said they want to make sure they get this information out in a way that protects the owner of these rights.

Yeas: 6

Nays: 0

N/V: 2

**Outcome: Passed unanimously with a favorable recommendation.**

Date: 1-26-21

**Senate Transportation, Public Utilities, Energy, and Technology Committee**

**Bill: 1st Sub HB 32 Energy Balancing Account Amendments**

Sponsor: Rep. Albrecht

Floor Sponsor: Sen. Winterton

**UASD Position: Support**

This Bill: provides a mechanism for an interim rate as a part of the energy balancing account process.

Discussion: Rep. Albrecht said the Public Service Commission currently allows interim rates for Dominion Energy. They briefly did that for Rocky Mountain Power, but the state supreme court ruled that state code did not grant them this authority. The interim committee heard from all parties and determined unanimously that this energy balancing account would benefit everyone involved. The Public Service Commission's amendment is a technical fix. Customer costs are directly related to energy costs. If more is collected by the company, the customers will see a refund. If less is collected, customers will receive a charge. Sen. Winterton spoke in support of the bill. Chris Parker spoke with the Utah Division of Public Utilities in support of the bill. He said the system currently works so base rates have an amount allocated for net power costs, but each year the costs vary from base rates. This was enacted to allow the company or the customers to recover the difference.

Yeas: 6

Nays: 0

N/V: 2

**Outcome: Passed unanimously with a favorable recommendation.**